

Pre-test of Job Aid for Laboratory Confirmation to Support Integrated Disease Surveillance in Tanzania, November 2003

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Background

Situation analysis conducted in April 2002 in Tanzania at the district level showed:

- insufficient planning for staffing, supplies, and services for laboratory confirmation
- insufficient guidance for district health workers on when and how to perform tasks for laboratory confirmation

To address these problems, partners developed Job Aids for Laboratory Confirmation:

- condensed, ready references
- define the supplies needed to perform the recommended tasks for laboratory confirmation of priority diseases
- describe when and how to perform the recommended tasks

To guide the development process, a pre-test was conducted with potential users.

Objective

To pre-test the Job Aids for Laboratory Confirmation with potential users in Tanzania to obtain comments and opinions on the content and format of a draft Job Aid

Methods

Facilitators

A team of facilitators from the Tanzania MoH, Tanzania NIMR, WHO, and the CDC developed and implemented pre-test methodology

Participants

- A sample of convenience was used
- 20 participants were selected from 4 districts in Tanzania
- Inclusion criteria included responsibilities for tasks related to laboratory confirmation

Activities

In a desk-review setting, the participants

- Read Job Aid for Laboratory Confirmation for Bacillary Dysentery
- performed selected steps, using simulated specimens and supplies provided, while referencing Job Aid
- completed standardized questionnaires
- Engaged in individual interviews with facilitator

Data

- Participant ratings and opinions on usefulness, ease of following and understanding of the content were collected using standardized questionnaires
- Participant comments on likes, dislikes and suggested improvements were collected using standardized questionnaires and individual interviews
- Data were analyzed using Epi Info 2002 and Microsoft Excel 2002 to determine frequencies, means, and medians

Figure 1. Map of Africa with the United Republic of Tanzania highlighted in blue. On the map of Tanzania, the locations of the four districts where the Pre-test was conducted are indicated by blue circles.

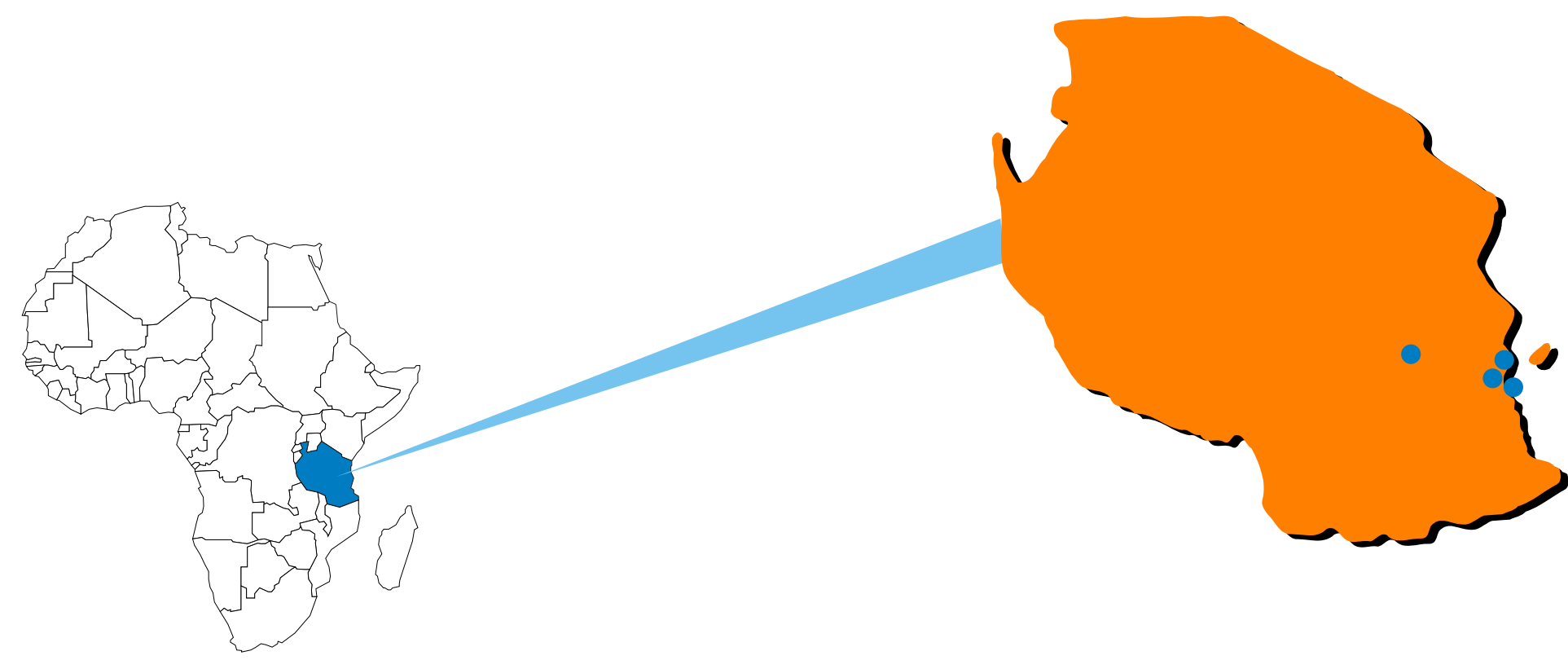


Figure 2. Facilitator from the Tanzania MoH explaining the pre-test methodology to nurses in District 3 (Temeke District).



Figure 3. Health officers and laboratory technicians completing pre-test questionnaires in District 4 (Morogoro District) with facilitators from Tanzania MoH, NIMR, WHO, and CDC.



Figure 4. Nurse and physician performing steps using simulated specimens during pre-test in District 2 (Ilala District)



Results

Figure 5. Participant Ratings on Understanding of the Job Aid for Laboratory Confirmation (Means and 95% Confidence Bands)

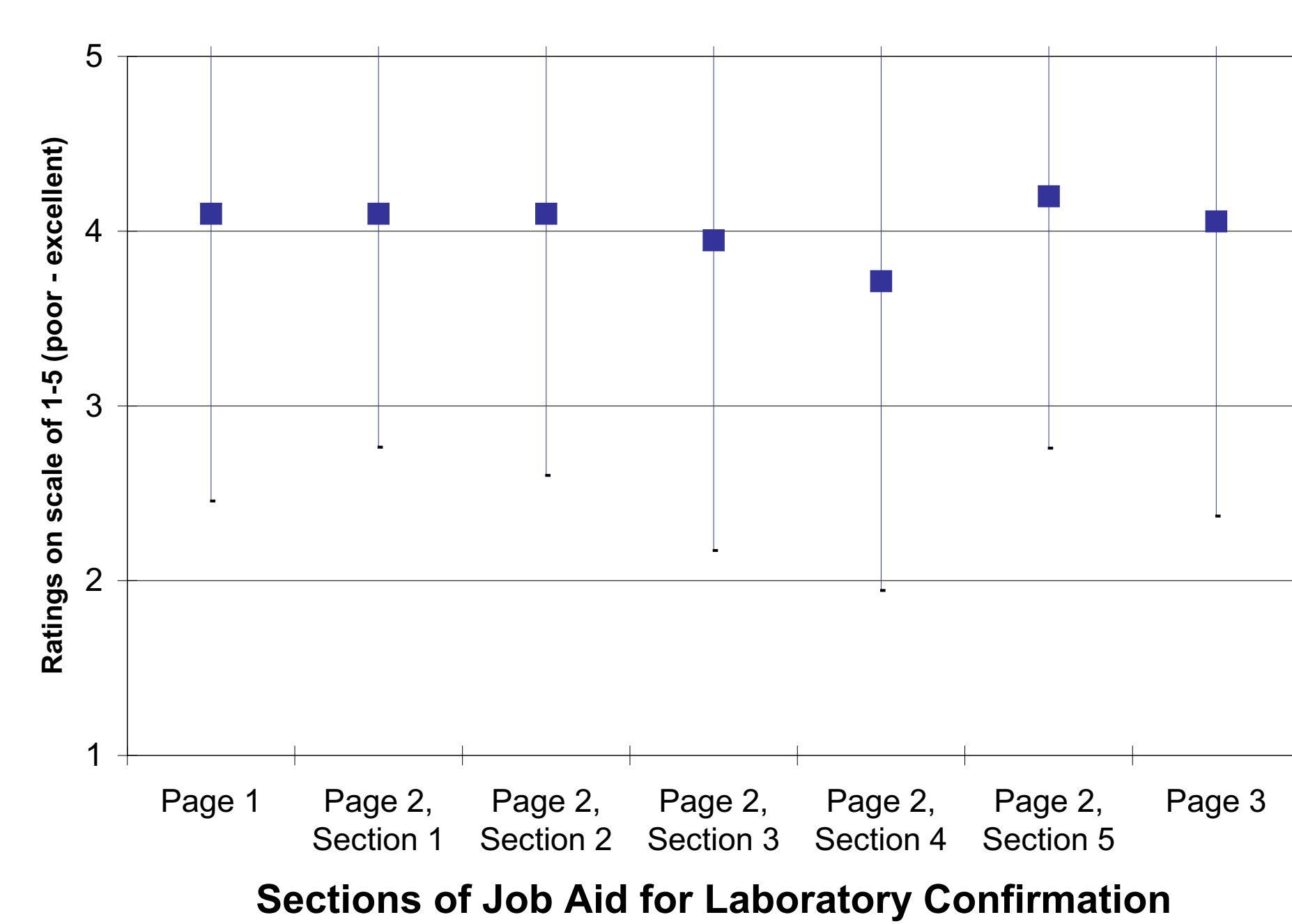


Figure 6. Participant Ratings on Usefulness of Job Aids for Laboratory Confirmation (Means and 95% Confidence Bands)

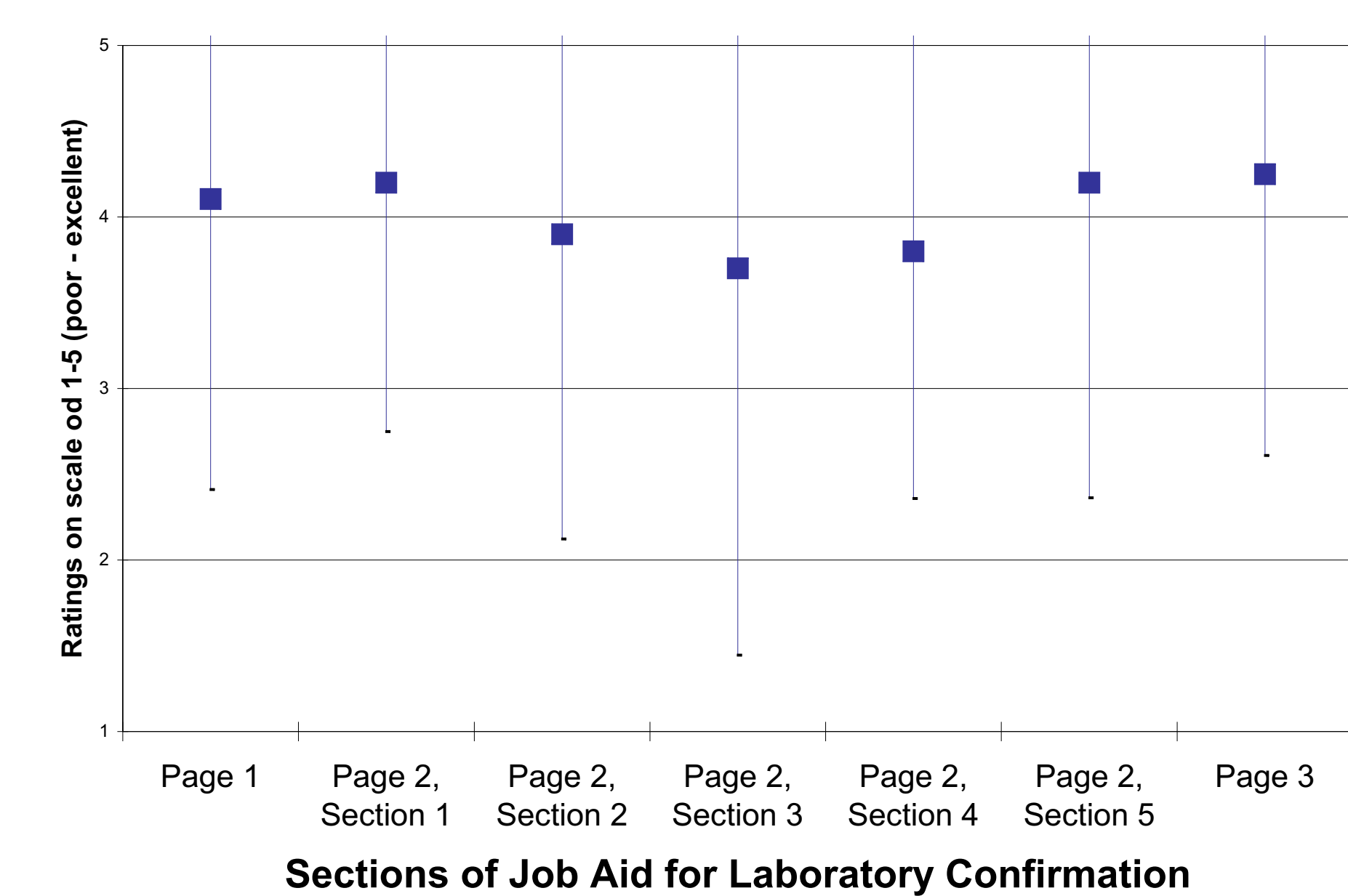
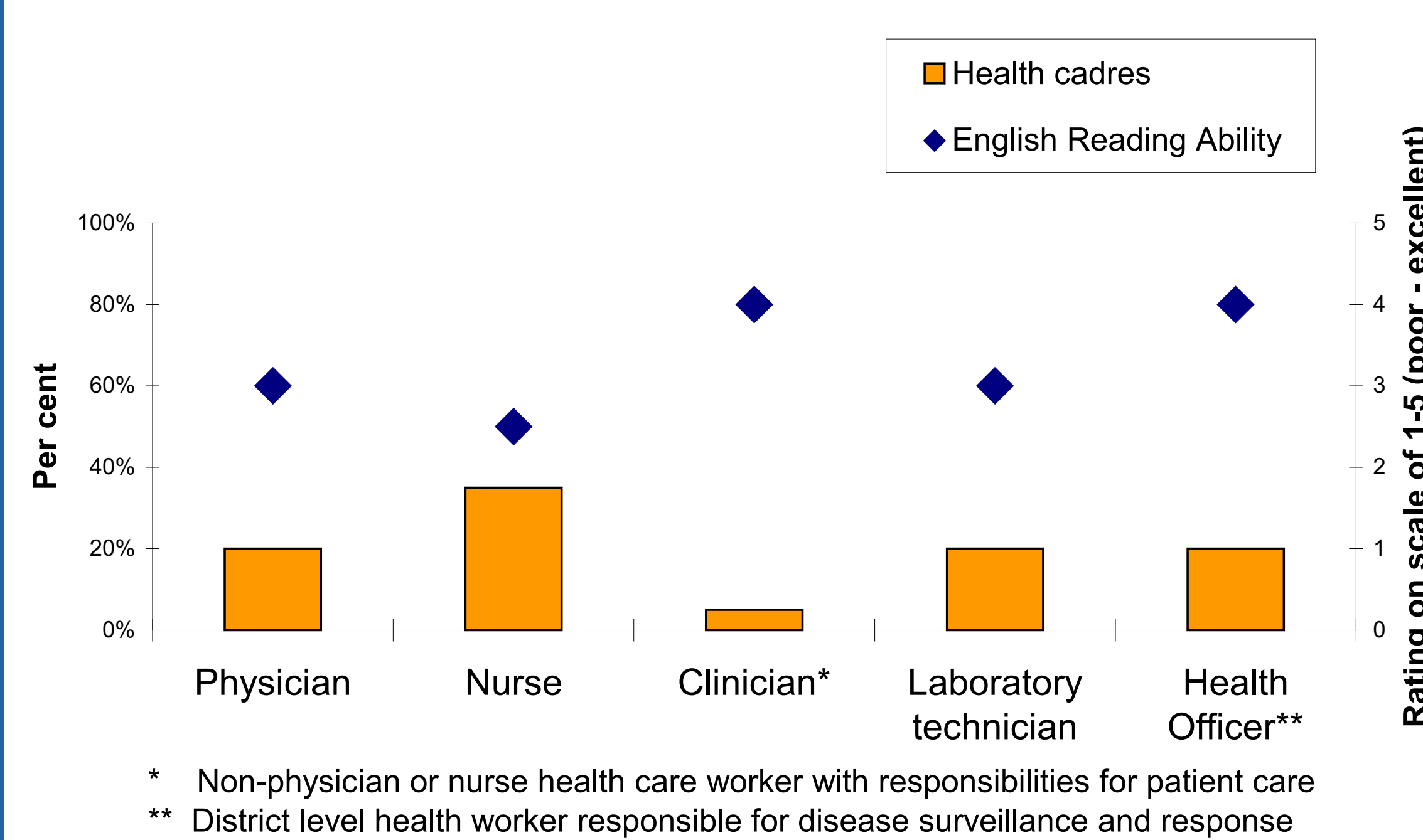


Figure 8. Participant Health Cadres (%) and Median Self-Reported English Reading Ability



- Median self-reported ability to read English from all cadres was 3.5, on a scale of 1-5 (poor to excellent)
- The health officers and clinician gave the highest ratings for self-reported English reading ability and the nurses gave the lowest

Figure 7. Job Aid for Laboratory Confirmation for Bacillary Dysentery used in the pre-test

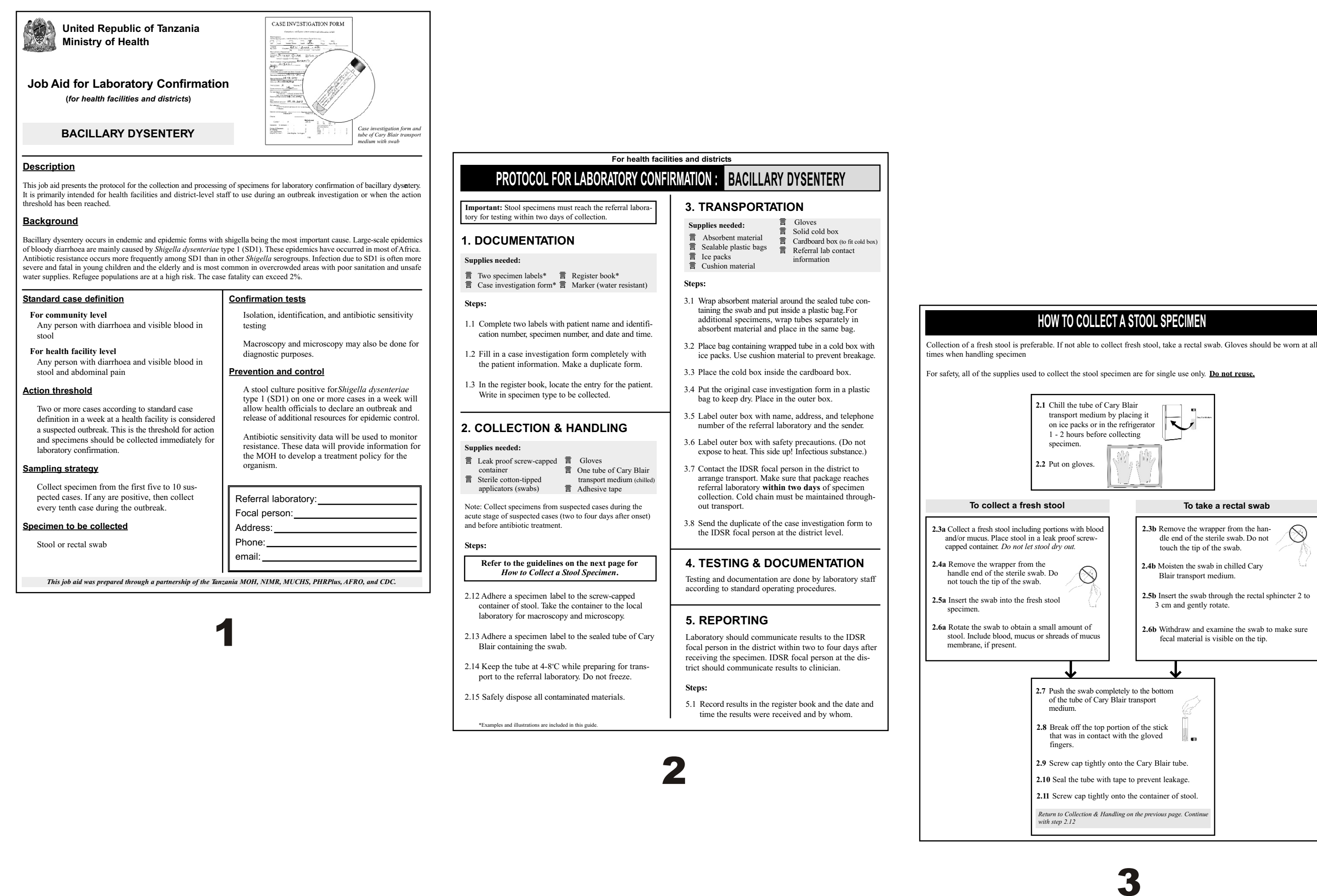


Figure 9. Participant Opinions on Page 3 of Job Aids for Laboratory Confirmation (Affirmative Response)

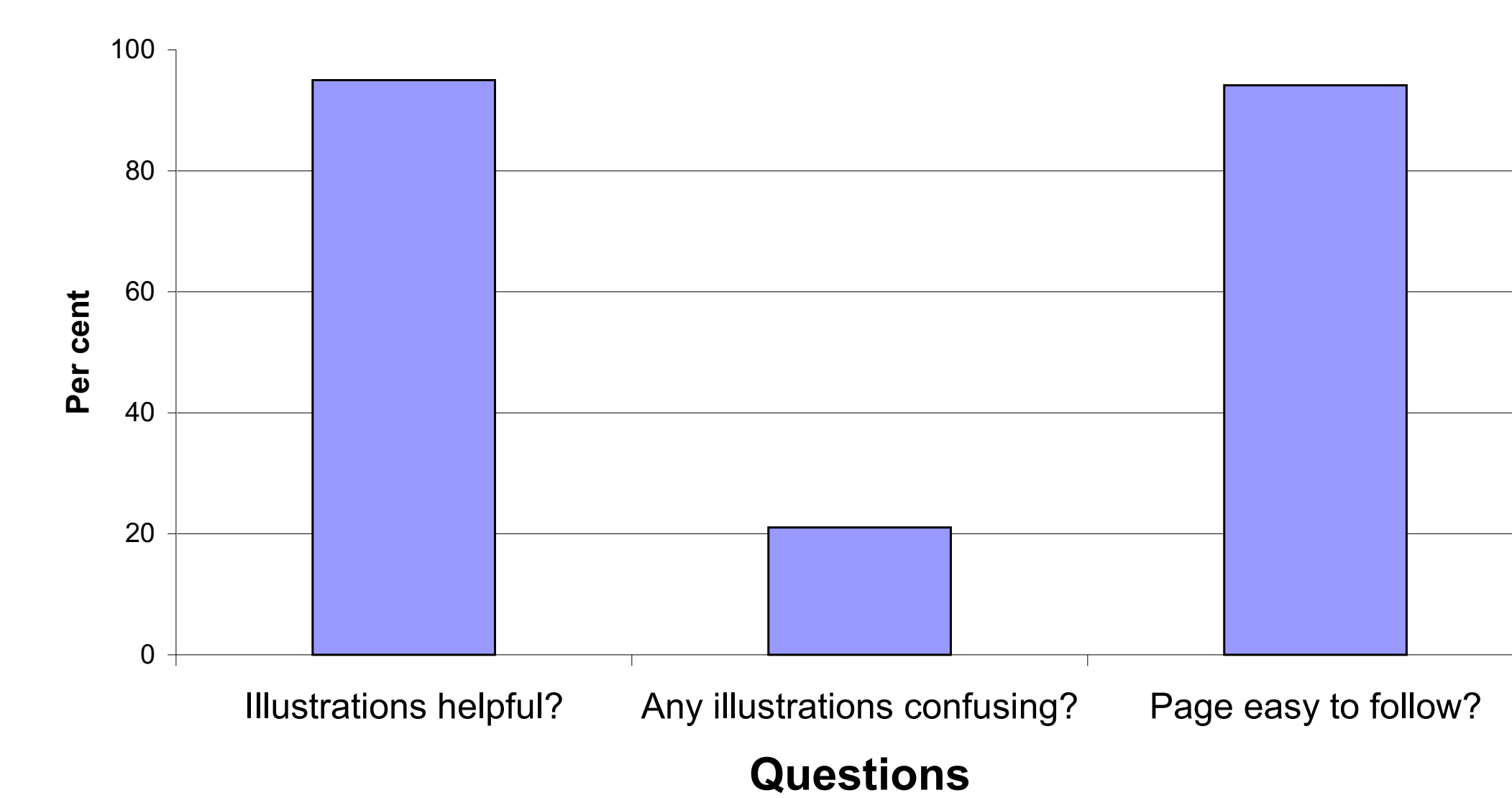


Figure 10. Participant Opinions on Potential Barriers to Performing Tasks Described in Job Aid for Laboratory Confirmation (Affirmative Responses)

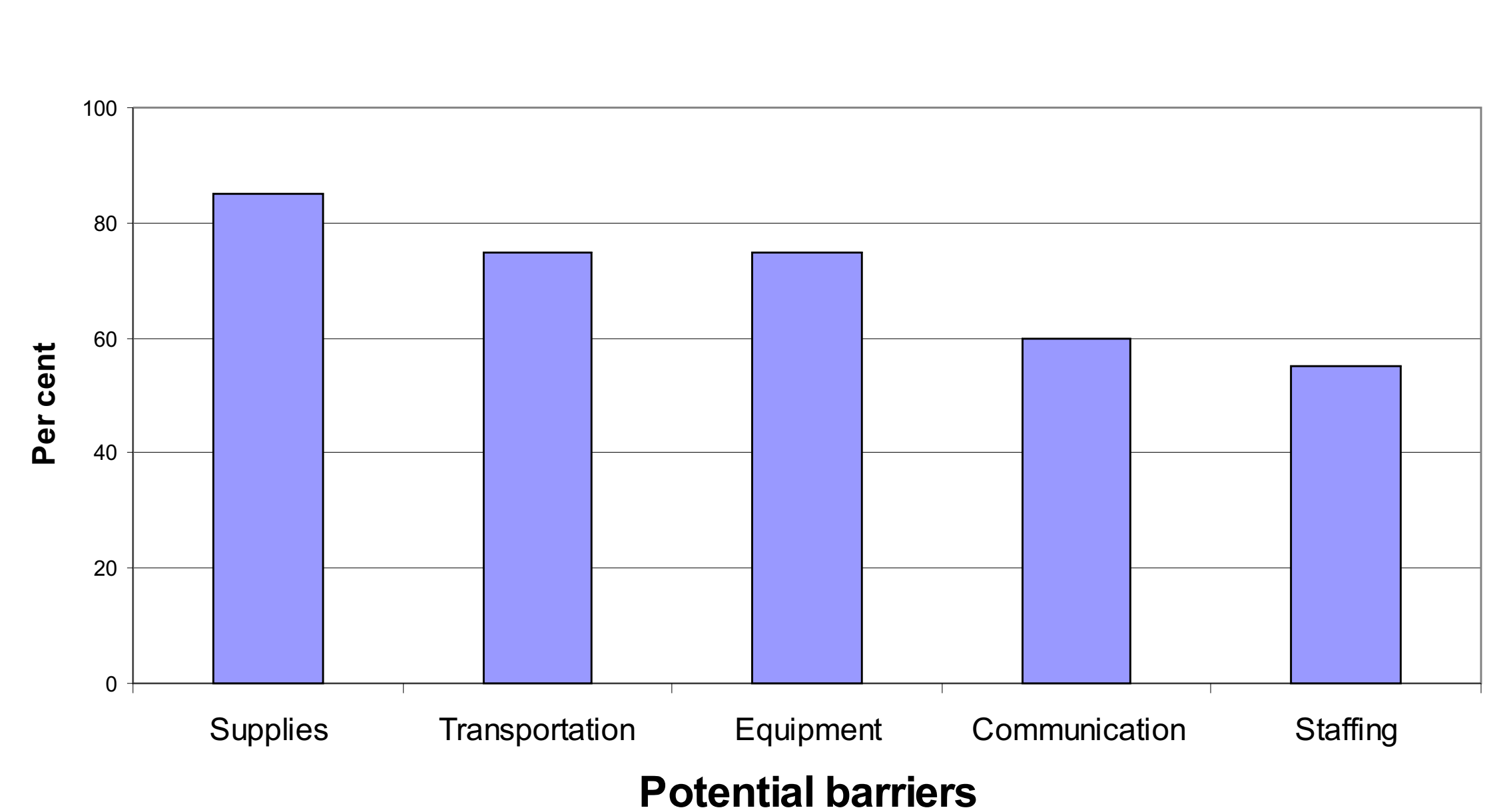


Figure 11. Comments

What did you like about the job aid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">“easy to use”“reminds me when I forget something”“common words used with good arrangement”“motivation for those who are responsible to carry out the task.”
What did you dislike about the job aid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">“availability of necessary equipment needed is poor”no “information regarding on how to dispose of used materials”
Suggestions for improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none">“make widely available to every level of facilities”“text may need to be translated to Kiswahili”“the job aids to be coloured” based on disease“give more equipment, enough staff and enough materials”

Conclusions/Recommendations

- Potential users showed a high level of satisfaction with the Job Aid for Laboratory Confirmation
- Text of the Job Aid for Laboratory Confirmation should be translated into local languages for maximum usage
- Illustrations should be modified based on feedback
- Districts should use Job Aids for Laboratory Confirmation to assess and plan for needed supplies, staffing and services
- Unavailability of supplies and other barriers needs further evaluation

Update

The draft Job Aids for Laboratory Confirmation were revised to reflect feedback from this pre-test and from technical reviews by the partner organizations. New Job Aids were developed for eight priority diseases.

Acknowledgments

- Tanzania Ministry of Health
- National Institute for Medical Research
- Preventive Services
- Diagnostic Services
- Vector Borne Services
- Center for Educational Development in Health
- World Health Organization African Regional Office
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases
 - Division of Viral and Rickettsial Diseases
 - Scientific Resources Program

Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences

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These activities were supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). We would like to thank Mary Harvey and Murray Trostle for their continued encouragement and support.